



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 720 – SEARCH ASSISTANCE BY “FLIGHT FOR LIFE” HELICOPTER

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2024-34  
**ISSUED:** June 19, 2024

**EFFECTIVE:** June 19, 2024

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Nicole Waldner  
**DATE:** May 8, 2024

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2022-38 (September 6, 2022)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** NONE

#### **720.00 PURPOSE**

The "Flight For Life" helicopter is available for use by department members for air searches. This procedure shall be followed when requesting and using this service.

#### **720.05 DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR SERVICE**

##### **A. EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. Supervisors may request an air search whenever they determine that exigent circumstances exist for lost or missing persons who may be in imminent danger, and that using air surveillance would increase the probability of locating those person(s).
2. Exigent circumstances shall be determined by:
  - a. Inaccessible areas (e.g., river banks, industrial sites, heavy underbrush)
  - b. Weather conditions (e.g., extreme temperatures)
  - c. Time elements (e.g., sick or injured persons)
  - d. Terrain (e.g., frozen lakes/ponds, dense shrubbery)
  - e. Time of day. "Flight For Life" helicopter is not available to conduct searches during hours of darkness.

##### **B. SHIFT COMMANDER NOTIFICATION**

Supervisors shall contact their shift commander with the appropriate information.

#### **720.10 NOTIFICATIONS**

##### **A. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU NOTIFICATION**

Shift commanders shall ensure that a supervisor at the Criminal Investigation Bureau at extension [REDACTED] is aware of the critical missing.

##### **B. NOTIFICATION TO NIGHT WATCH COMMANDER**

Upon receiving a request for air surveillance, shift commanders shall contact the night



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**720.25 POLICE LIEUTENANT RESPONSIBILITY - AFTER ACTION REPORT**

- A. Upon completion of the search, file a *Department Memorandum* (form PM-9E) after action report regarding the use of the "Flight For Life" helicopter in the investigation.
- B. The after action report shall contain:
1. Identity of pilot;
  2. Identity of person being searched for;
  3. Reason the helicopter was requested;
  4. Areas searched;
  5. Duration of search;
  6. Results of the search;
  7. Any additional important facts or circumstances.
- C. The after action report shall be disseminated to the following:
1. Original to the assistant chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau
  2. Copies to:
    - Assistant chief - Patrol Bureau
    - Assistant chief - Administration Bureau
    - Commanding officer of the district where the search occurred



JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE